

# Be safe on the water!

Rivers are ever-changing dynamic systems with inherent dangers. Here are some safety tips and river ethics to help you enjoy your time on the water.

## State and federal laws require paddlers to have:

- A personal flotation device for each person
- An efficient sound-signaling device (an approved whistle would suffice)
- A white-light source visible from 360 degrees if paddling in reduced visibility or from sunset to sunrise

## Recommended Safety Tips

- Never paddle alone
- Always file a "float plan": tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to return
- Check weather forecasts
- Carry a map of the stream or chart of the bay so you can find your location at any time
- Carry a cell phone or a handheld VHF radio in coastal areas
- Carry a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) unit
- Wear protective footgear and carry drinking water, sunscreen and insect repellent
- Plan your trip so that your paddling skills are equal to the water conditions

## Conservation

- Get to know your local stream by learning about its watershed, riparian zone, and native vegetation.
- Conserving riparian areas is important, as these areas filter pollutants and protect against flooding and erosion.
- When paddling, be sure to take a bag to hold your trash for proper disposal when you leave the river. Visit Leave No Trace ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)) for more information.
- Share the water; when approaching anglers or other paddlers, give them a wide berth and proceed quietly so as not to interfere with their recreation.

### RESPONSIBLE BOATING TIPS

- It's your river – keep it clean
- Stow it, don't throw it
- Alcohol and boats don't mix
- Respect private property rights
- Take a safe boating course

### For information on other outdoor opportunities:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.: (800) 792-1112

### To make reservations at a state park:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Central Reservation Center: (512) 389-8900

TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

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Life's better outside.®



# Canoeing and Kayaking IN TEXAS



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## Why Canoe or Kayak?

Canoeing and kayaking offer a more personal way to connect with nature. The quiet of being out on the water allows paddlers to experience a closer view of wildlife and scenery, drop a line and go fishing, or just relax. By traveling along river corridors, around lakes, or through bays and bayous, paddlers see nature from a new viewpoint. Learn more about canoeing and kayaking with the information below, and start your next paddling adventure soon!

## WHERE TO GO



### Texas Paddling Trails

Texas Paddling Trails offer you a brand-new perspective on the world. Visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails) to find information on canoe and kayak trails throughout the state.

Web site includes maps, rental contacts, safety tips, wildlife and fishing information, trail length and approximate float time for each paddling trail. Information is added as new trails are launched, so please check regularly for the most up-to-date listings.

## Paddling Clubs

### Alamo City Rivermen

San Antonio  
[www.alamocityrivermen.org](http://www.alamocityrivermen.org)

### Big Thicket Voyageurs Canoe & Kayak Club

Southeast Texas  
[www.geocities.com/btvcanoe](http://www.geocities.com/btvcanoe)

### Dallas Downriver Club

Dallas - Fort Worth Metroplex  
[www.down-river.com](http://www.down-river.com)

### Galveston Bay Eco-Paddle Association

Galveston Bay and surrounding communities  
[www.ecopaddle.org](http://www.ecopaddle.org)

### Hill Country Paddlers

Central Texas  
[www.quintanna.com/mtnsports/hcpaddlers/](http://www.quintanna.com/mtnsports/hcpaddlers/)

### Houston Association of Sea Kayakers

Houston  
[www.hask.org](http://www.hask.org)

### Houston Canoe Club

Houston  
[www.houstoncanoecub.org](http://www.houstoncanoecub.org)

### North Texas River Runners

Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex  
[www.river-runners.org](http://www.river-runners.org)

### Paddling Anglers in Canoes & Kayaks

Houston  
[www.packtx.org](http://www.packtx.org)

## More Information and Organizations

### Texas River Guide

Online Texas river information clearinghouse  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/riverguide](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/riverguide)

### American Canoe Association

[www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

### Texas Canoe Racing Association

<http://txcanoeracing.org/tcra1/>

### Texas Rivers Protection Association

[www.txrivers.org](http://www.txrivers.org)

### Texas River Recreation Association

<http://world.std.com/~reichert/canoeTX.htm>

### United States Canoe Association

[www.uscanoe.com/](http://www.uscanoe.com/)



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